



## Cal/OSHA Notice - Worker Health and Safety in Wildfire Regions

*December 12, 2017*

Smoke from wildfires contains chemicals, gases and fine particles that can harm health. The greatest hazard comes from breathing fine particles, which can reduce lung function, worsen asthma and other existing heart and lung conditions, and cause coughing, wheezing and difficulty breathing.

Guidance for employers and workers on working safely in conditions with heavy smoke caused by the wildfires [is available on Cal/OSHA's web page](#). Employers with operations exposed to wildfire smoke must consider taking appropriate measures as part of their Injury and Illness Prevention Program under Title 8 [section 3203](#) of the California Code of Regulations and as required under [section 5141](#) (Control of Harmful Exposure to Employees). Those measures include:

- Engineering controls whenever feasible (for example, using a filtered ventilation system in indoor work areas)
- Administrative controls if practicable (for example, limiting the time that employees work outdoors)
- Providing workers with respiratory protective equipment, such as disposable filtering facepieces (dust masks).
  - To filter out fine particles, respirators must be labeled N-95, N-99, N-100, R-95, P-95, P-99 or P-100, and must be labeled approved by the US National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).
  - Approved respiratory protective equipment is necessary for employees working in outdoor locations designated by local air quality management districts as “Unhealthy”, “Very Unhealthy” or “Hazardous”.
    - It takes more effort to breathe through a respirator and it can increase the risk of heat stress. Frequent breaks are advised. Workers feeling dizzy, faint or nauseated are advised to go to a clean area, remove the respirator and seek medical attention.
    - Respirators should be discarded if they become difficult to breathe through or if the inside becomes dirty. A new respirator should be used each day.



N95 respirator masks are available at the following County Emergency Operations Centers. Please refer to the [Governor's Office of Emergency Services December 2017 Wildfires webpage](#) for updates.

<b>Santa Barbara County</b> Costco in the Camino Real Marketplace 7095 Market Pl Drive Goleta	<b>Santa Barbara County</b> Franklin Community Center 1136 East Montecito Street Santa Barbara
<b>Santa Barbara County</b> Albertson's in Carpinteria 1018 Casitas Pass Road Carpinteria	<b>Santa Barbara County</b> Montecito Lower Village 1400 block of E. Valley Road Montecito
<b>Ventura County</b> Santa Paula Community Center 530 W Main St Santa Paula, CA 93060	<b>Ventura County</b> Ventura County Fair – Red Cross Shelter 10 W. Harbor Blvd Ventura, CA 93004
<b>Ventura County</b> Beth Torah Temple 7620 Foothill Road Ventura, CA 93004	<b>Ventura County</b> Oxnard College Gymnasium – Red Cross Shelter 4000 S Rose Ave Oxnard, CA 93033
<b>Ventura County</b> Nordhoff High School 1401 Maricopa Hwy Ojai, CA 93023	<b>Ventura County</b> Ojai Valley Community Hospital 1306 Maricopa Highway Ojai, CA 93023